Vagabond

vol. 28

#243 | Frogs

KO...

...JI...

...RŌ...

SO YOU'RE CALLED KOJIRŌ...

AH--

I LIKE FROGS.

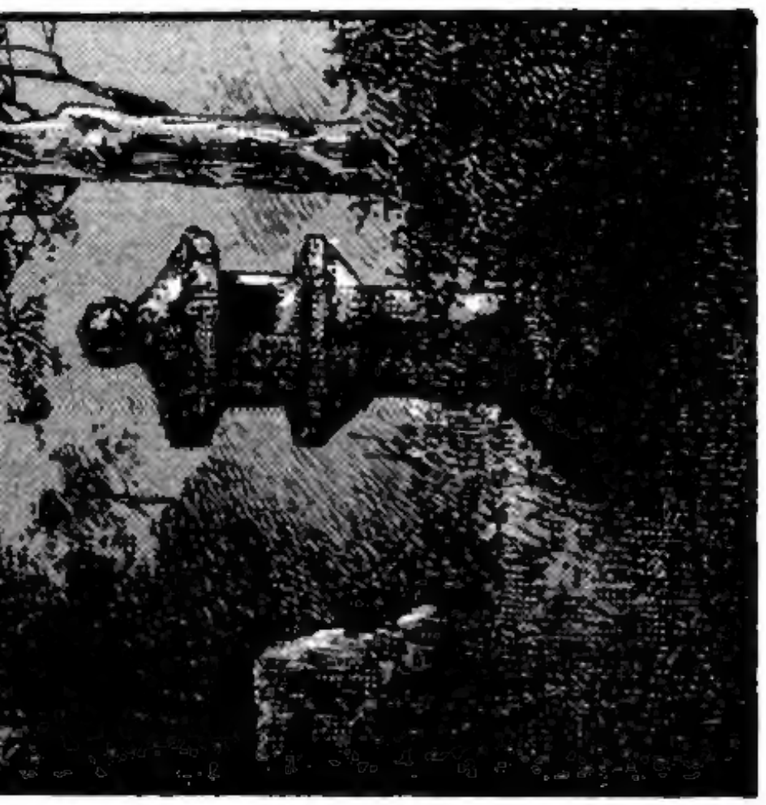
DOES IT FEEL COLD?

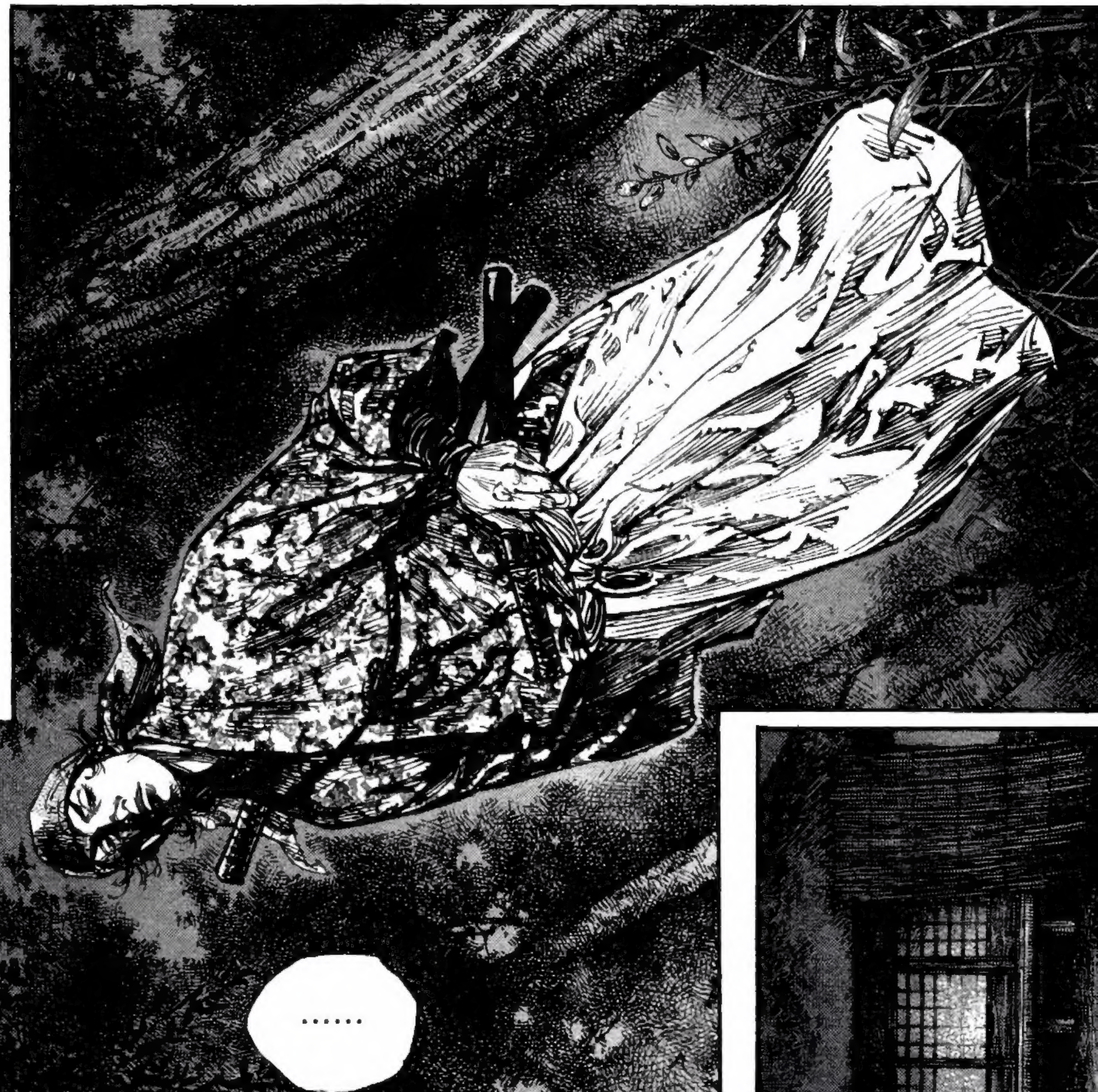
YOUR SKIN FEELS SO WARM...

...NEXT TO THE FROG...

OH ...

AH ...





.....

OOH...

ば

...

IT'S GETTING LATE.... BETTER HEAD HOME.

CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOUR EARS...

...

HMPH

AUH--

HEY, THAT TICKLES!

HEY--

FLAIL FLAIL

AUHH--

HELLO!

...

...

THANK YOU FOR BEING SO GENTLE.

NO NEED FOR MONEY.

YOU'RE FINE JUST AS YOU ARE.

...

YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HEAR...

...BUT YOU CAN SEE WHAT OTHERS CAN'T.

THE NIGHT IS SO DARK...

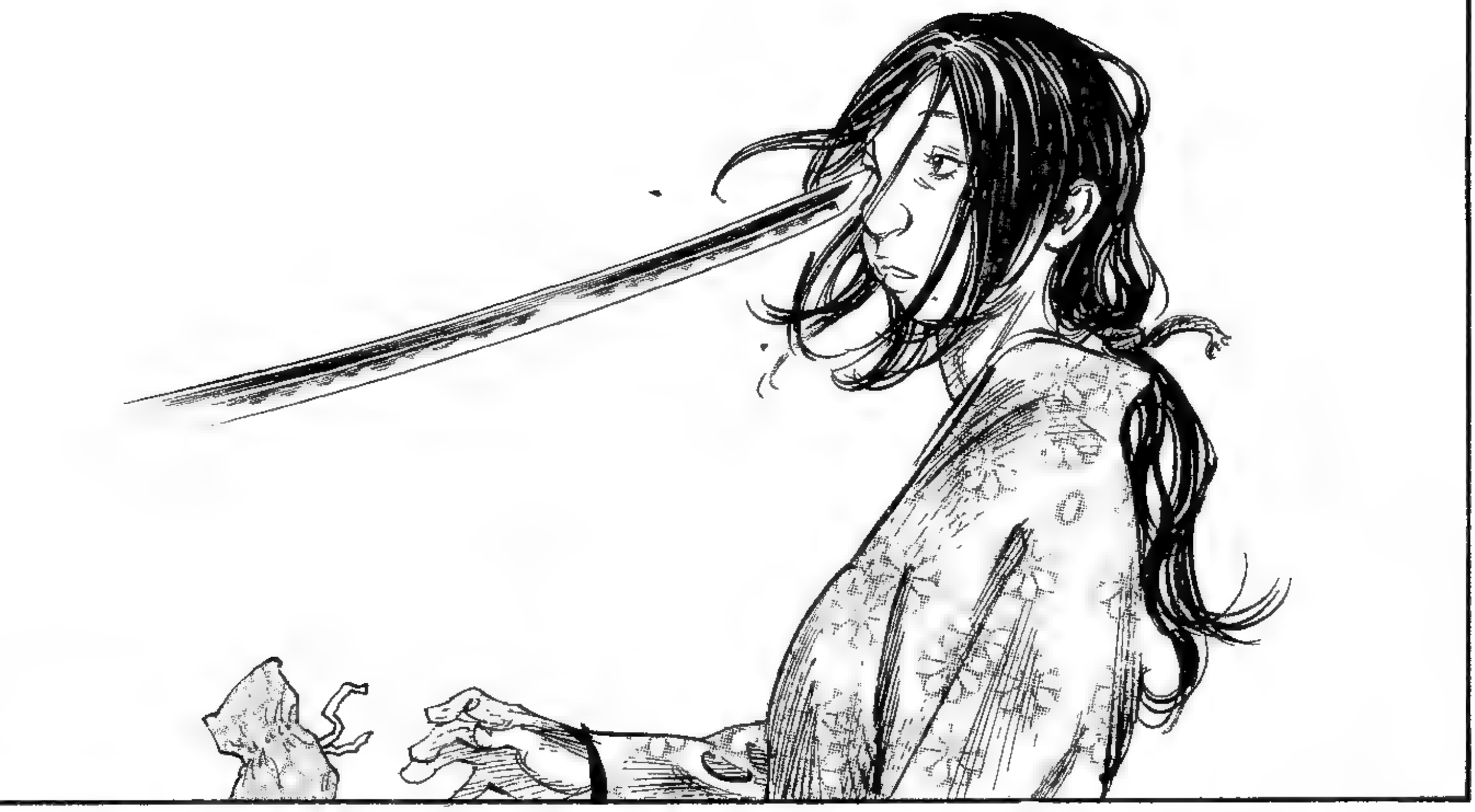
...BUT THEN...

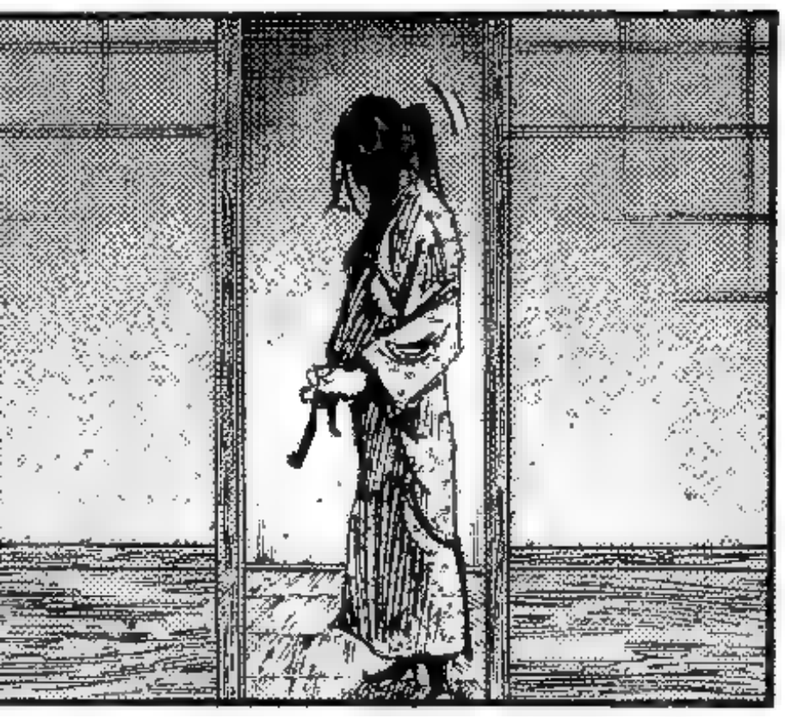
I CAN TELL...

...THAT'S SO WE CAN SEE THE STARS.

GASP!

KŌHEI...





HEY...

YOU CAN STOP NOW.

YOU MUST THINK IT ODD...

WHY I'D PAY FOR SOMETHING I CAN'T EVEN DO.

WHEW

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

FIP

I LIKE FROGS ...

...I CAN FEEL HOW WARM YOU ARE...

IS IT COLD?

GASP!

...

...

THIS ENOUGH FOR ANOTHER NIGHT?

CHNG

IT'S ALL STOLEN ANYWAY.

OH MY...

I DON'T NEED THIS MUCH.

YOU HAVE SUCH LONG FINGERS ...

I LIKE HOW YOU TOUCH ME...

YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

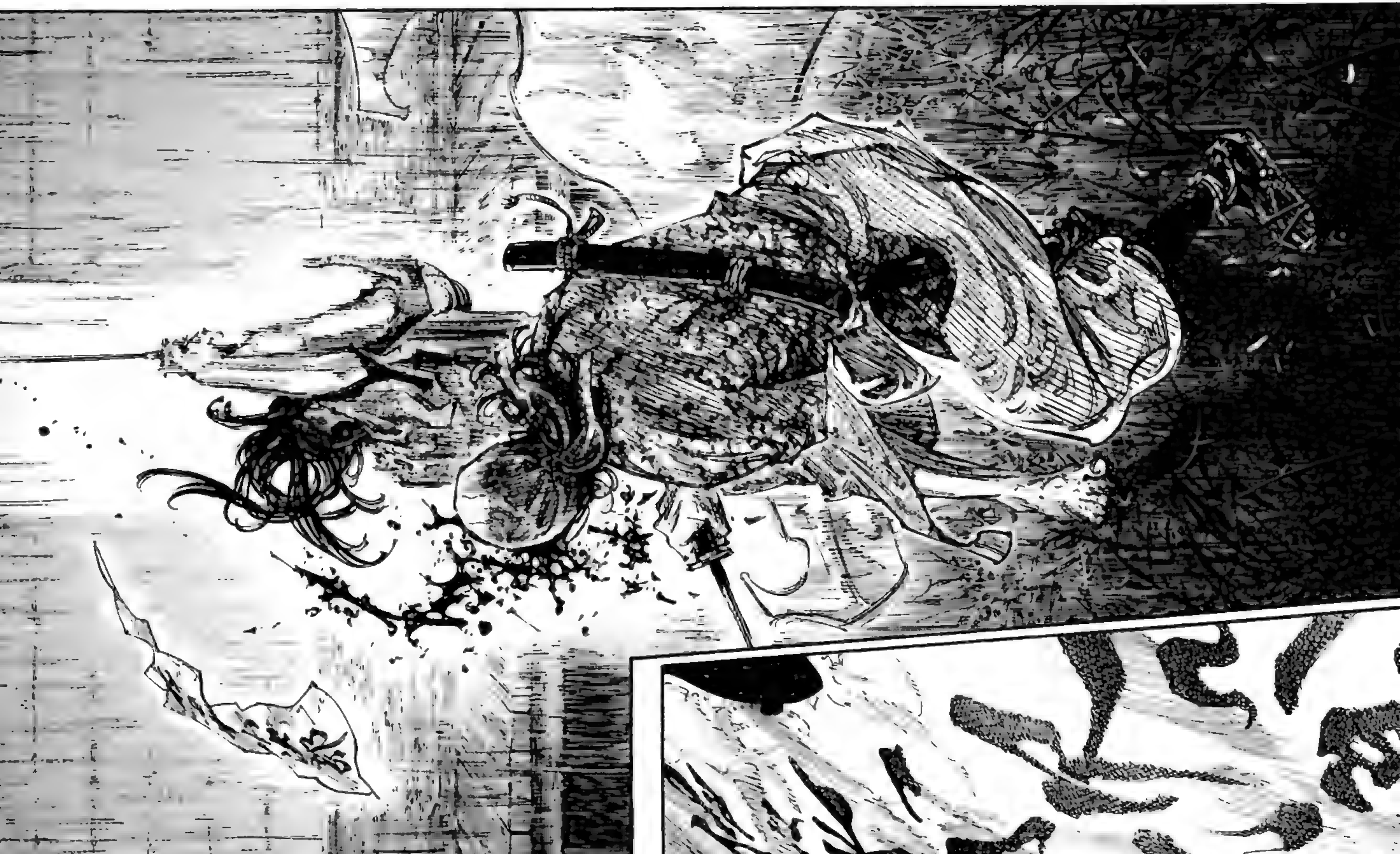
I'M GONNA KILL YOU.

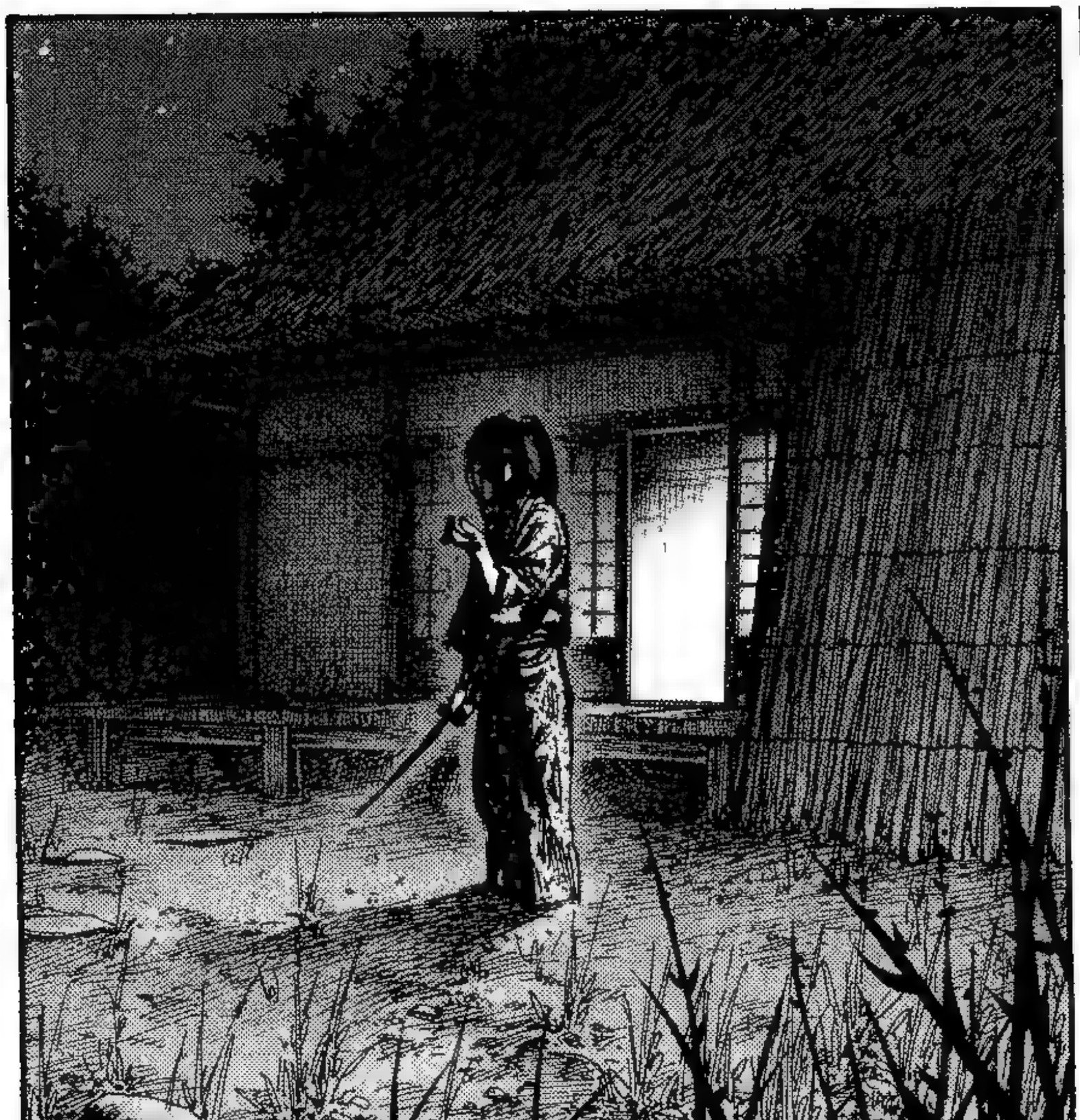
ALL WE'RE DOING...

...IS PASSING TIME BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

!?

!





Vagabond

LOOKS LIKE I SURVIVED...

I KILLED 70 OF THE YOSHIOKA...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

...!

FICH

FICH

FICH

#244
A Path All
His Own

FATHER
...

FATHER
...

YAHH!

OH!

YOU'RE UP!

HUF

HUF

HUF

WHAT ...?!

GREAT ...!

OW! FWUM

YAY!

YOU'RE AWAKE!

HEY!

MASTER!

MASTER !

HOW DID I--

KONPU-KUJI TEMPLE.

YOU RETURNED ...

RETURNED FROM HELL, I SUPPOSE.

...OR...

IS THIS A DREAM...

WH-WHERE AM I?

...BUT YOUR WOUNDS SEEM TO HEAL QUICKLY.

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT.

THAT LONG, DEEP SLEEP YOU WERE IN MUST'VE AIDED YOUR RECOVERY.

GASP!

TAKUAN!

JUST LIKE A WILD BEAST.

...WAS IT THE BATTLE THAT WAS A DREAM?

AND WHEN I SAW YOU AS I WANDERED TOWARDS RENGEŌIN TEMPLE...

...WAS THAT A DREAM TOO...?

AND IF IT WAS...

...

YOU'RE LUCKY THAT STAB WASN'T FATAL...

ANY DEEPER AND IT WOULD'VE KILLED YOU.

SOMEONE FOUND YOU IN THE SNOW...

...NEARLY DEAD.

YOU REMEMBER WHO IT WAS?

?

BRR-RR

IT'S FREEZING!

AND NOW I'M OUT OF SAKE.

I LOST MY FRIEND.

HIC

KLOP

DAMN IT!

HUH?

HEY...

HUH?

WHERE ARE YOU, KOJIRŌ?

LET'S MAKE SOME-THING OF OURSELVES, YOU AND I...

HIC

A DEAD BODY...!

SHIVER
SHIVER

!

...

TAKEZŌ...?

TAKEZŌ ?!

TAKEZŌ!

Y-YOU'RE STILL BREATHING!

DON'T YOU DIE!

DON'T DIE ON ME.

TAKEZŌ!

C'MON!

TAKEZŌ!

ANYBODY!

PLEASE HELP!

SOME-ONE...

HELP...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

AH!

A TEMPLE.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY, TAKEZŌ!

FWICCH

NNGH!

HM?

GASP

SORRY...

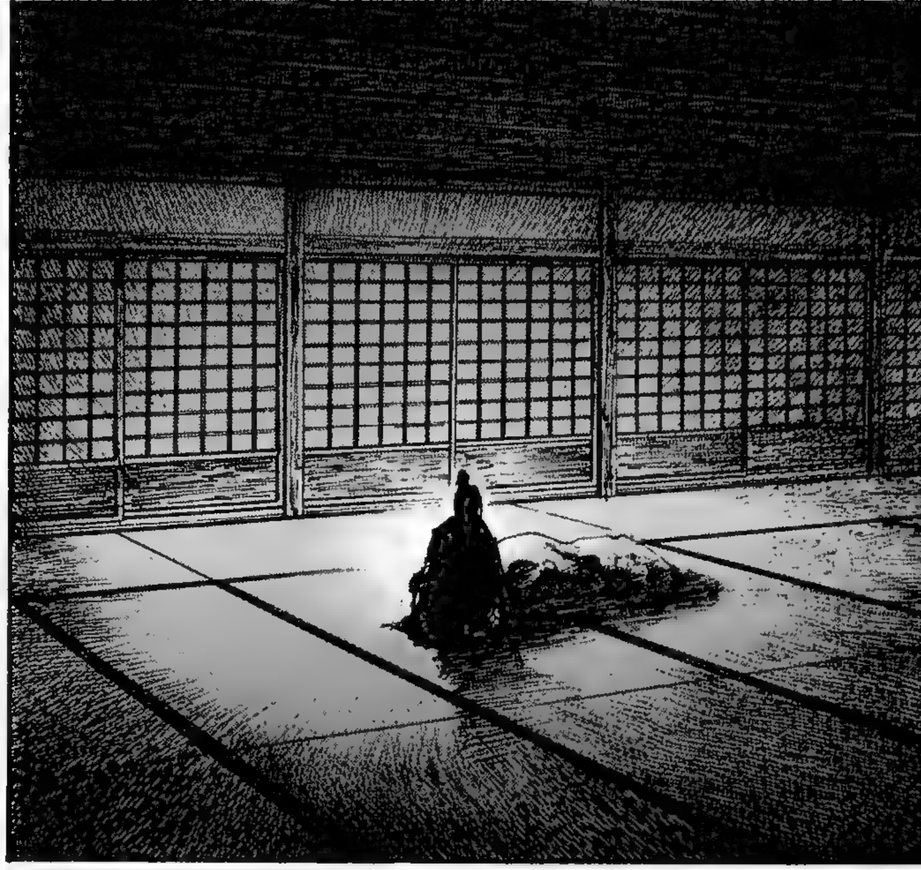
...

THIS IS HOW FAR YOU HAVE TO GO TO REACH THE TOP...

THIS IS HOW MUCH YOU HAVE TO FIGHT...

INCREDIBLE ...

I COULD NEVER DO THAT.



...

HMM ...

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO SLEEP, MATA-HACHI.

WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN.

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

WE'RE SO DIFFERENT ...

GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD MORNING!

THIS IS WHERE TAKUAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

HELLO!

HEY!

HM...?

#245 | Reunion

CHIRP

CHIRP

TAKEZŌ...

HEY! IT'S MY MASTER!

LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE'S BECOME...!

GASP!

FWP

OTSU!

?!

CHIRRP

CHIRRP

LET'S LIVE OUR LIVES TOGETHER...

MMBL

SHOCK

MASTER!

ARE YOU OKAY ?!

EXCUSE ME!

OUT OF THE WAY!

!!

FWOOP

OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T BE SO BADLY BEATEN UP, RIGHT?! IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THAT MANY MEN TO HURT YOU THIS MUCH.

MASTER, DID YOU REALLY TAKE ON THOSE 70 MEN FROM THE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL...?

ARE YOU OKAY?

URR, DAMN IT...

OTSŪ?

SO YOU REALLY DID WIN!

I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL BREATH-ING.

WHAT A RELIEF, HUH, OTSŪ?

YOU CAN'T GO IN.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME... SHE REALLY HAD TO HOLD HERSELF BACK.

SHE'S FINALLY WITH HIM...

OF COURSE NOT.

DID THEY TRAVEL TOGETHER ...?!

I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE MASTER IS SO DEDICATED TO THE SWORD.

HUH?

UH-OH...

I'M... UH...

SAY, WHO ARE YOU?

YOU LOOK FAMILIAR...

BUT MASTER'S WOUNDED SO SEVERELY HE CAN'T FIGHT.

SO OTSU DOESN'T HAVE TO HOLD HERSELF BACK ANYMORE.

SHE CAN SMOOCH HIM.

SMOOOCH.

...

...

I WANT TO BE STRONG.

HMM...I DUNNO...

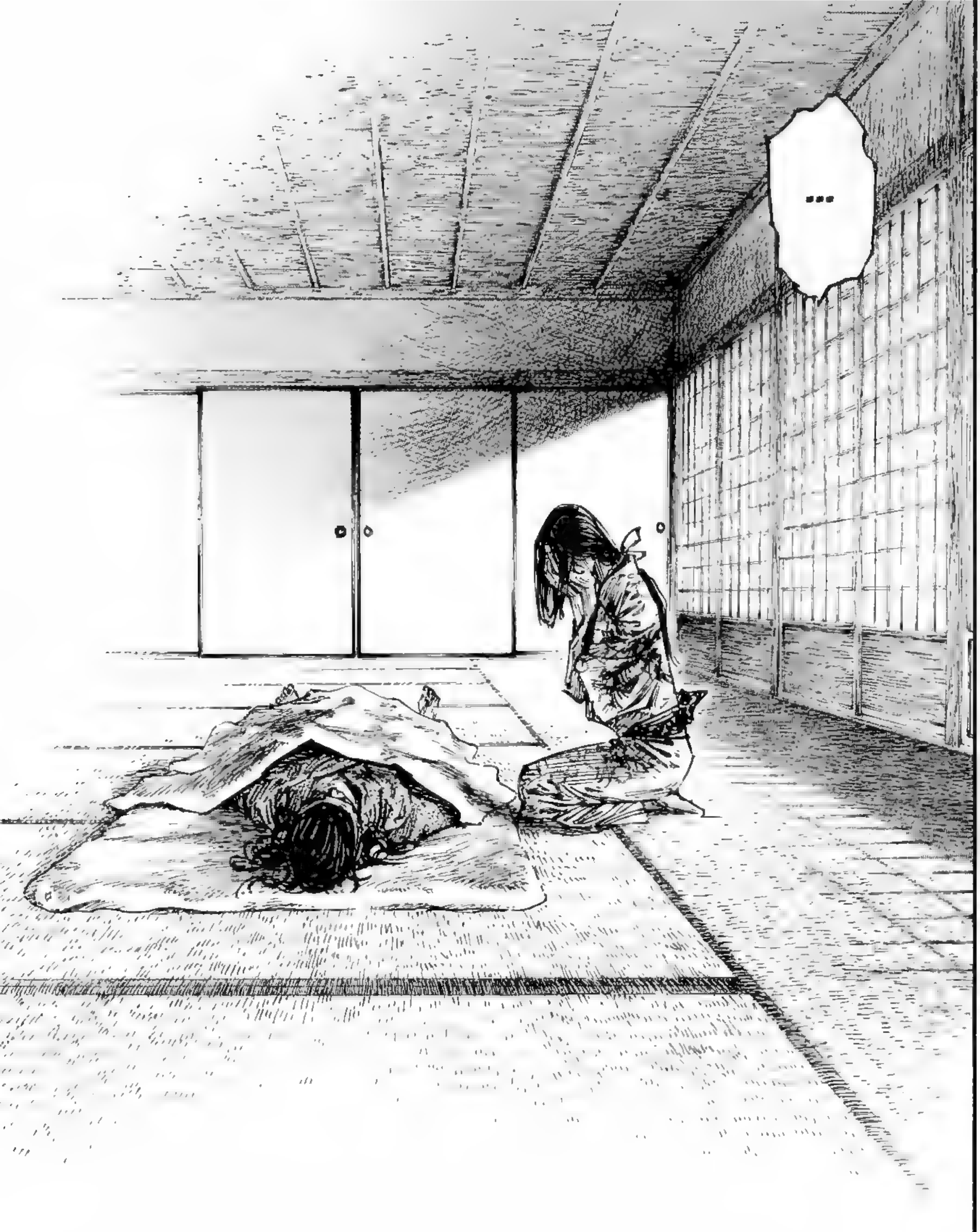
BECAUSE I'M A MAN.

WHY ...?

DON'T LAUGH, OTSŪ.

...

I WANT TO BE SO STRONG THAT IN ALL THE LAND...
...THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE PERSON WHO WON'T KNOW MY NAME.


...

...TAKING ON 70 MEN.

YOU WENT TOO FAR...

HMPH

#246

The Two Stay the Same

TUG

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, OTSŪ.

...

I'M...

...SORRY...

HOW COULD YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME!

...

...

HMMM...

BUT REALLY...

WHAT'S THIS?

HM?

SHOCK

!

OF COURSE I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

YOU LOOK STRANGE.

HUH?

AND THIS.

...IS TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR A COUNTRY BUMPKIN LIKE YOU...

THAT'S MY STYLE!

I SUPPOSE THIS NEW LOOK I ACQUIRED IN THE CITY...

THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK SHALL NOT EAT!

HEY!

GET TO WORK, MATAHACHI!

WHAT WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?

HM...

TMP

TMP

TMP

THERE'S A WALL BETWEEN US.

TMP

TMP

HUF

HUF

BUT I CAN'T BLAME HER...

BUT OTSŪ DOESN'T LOOK AT ME THE WAY SHE USED TO.

WE'RE THE SAME PEOPLE AS BEFORE.

ALL RIGHT.

SO YOU WON'T DO IT?

OH.

I REALLY HAVE TO WRITE THIS LETTER?

AFTER ALL...

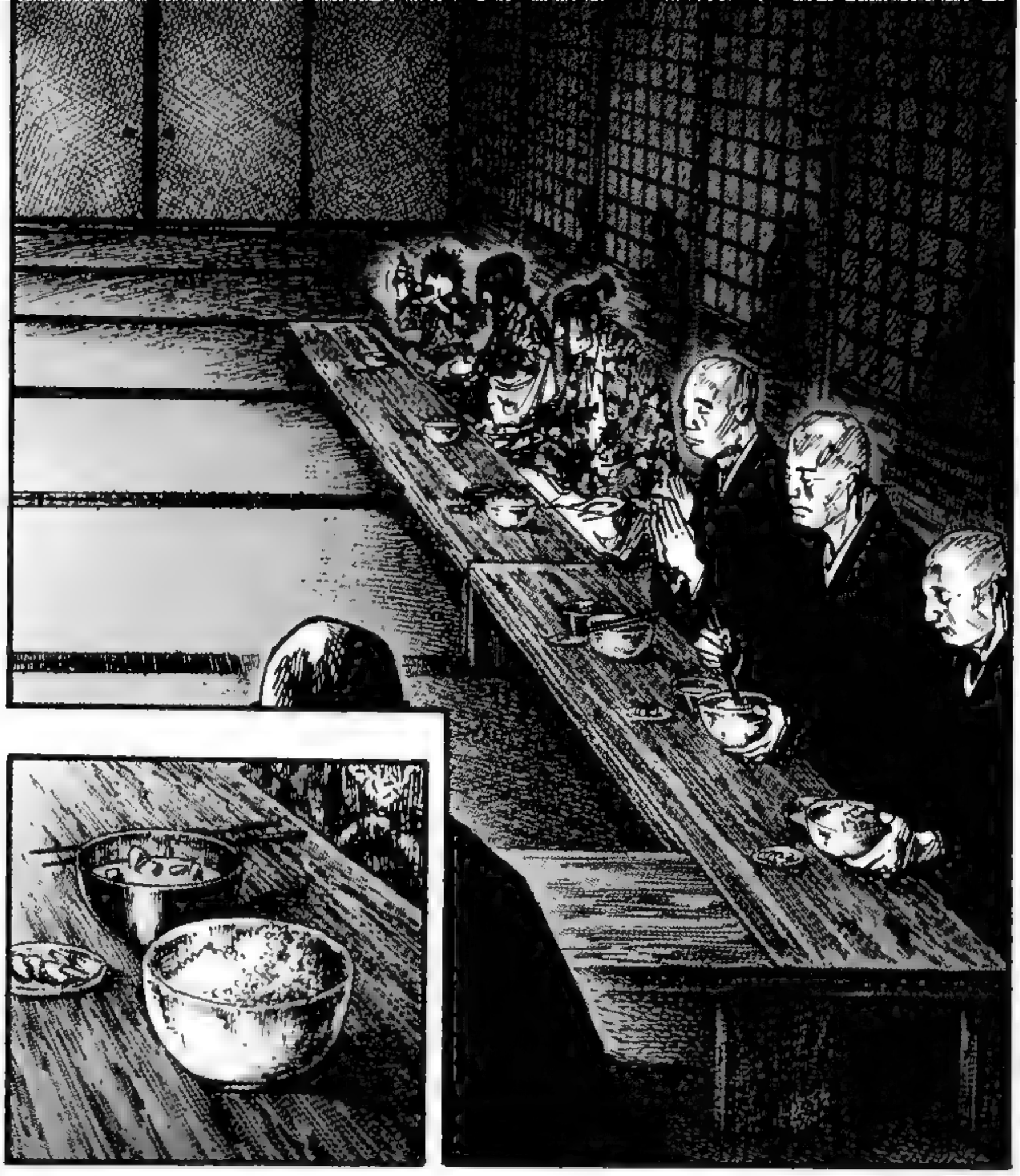
I'M THE ONE WHO BUILT THAT WALL BETWEEN US.

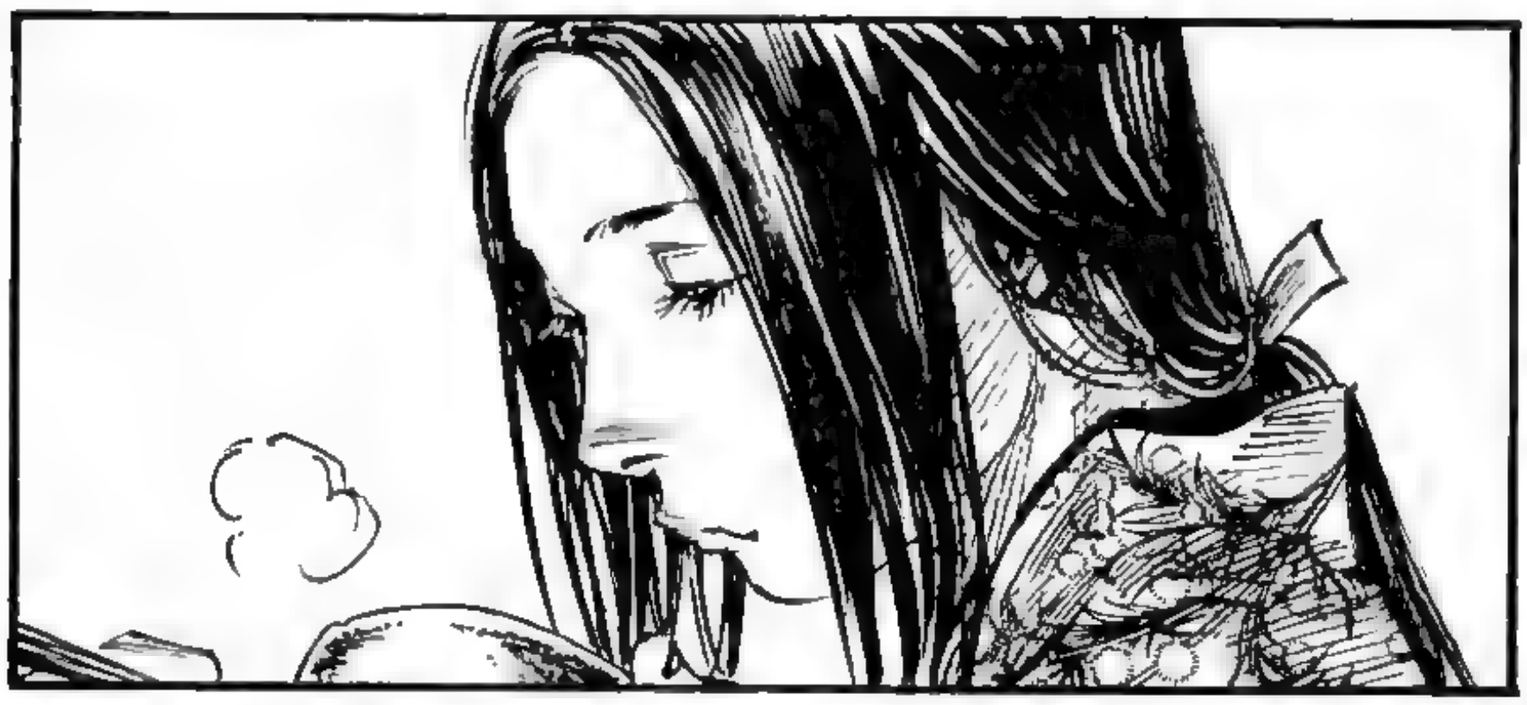
TMP

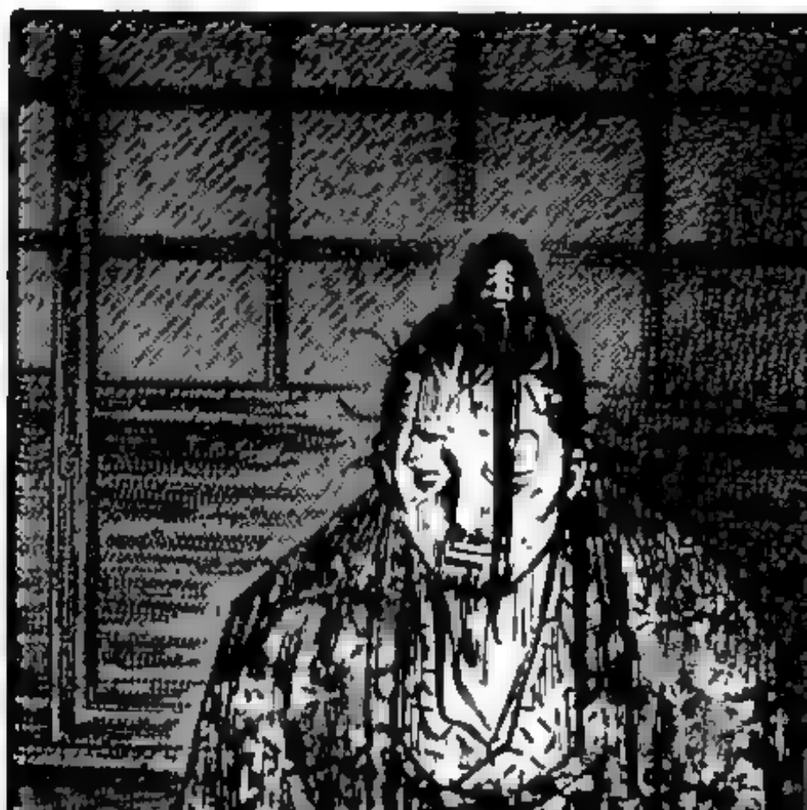
TMP

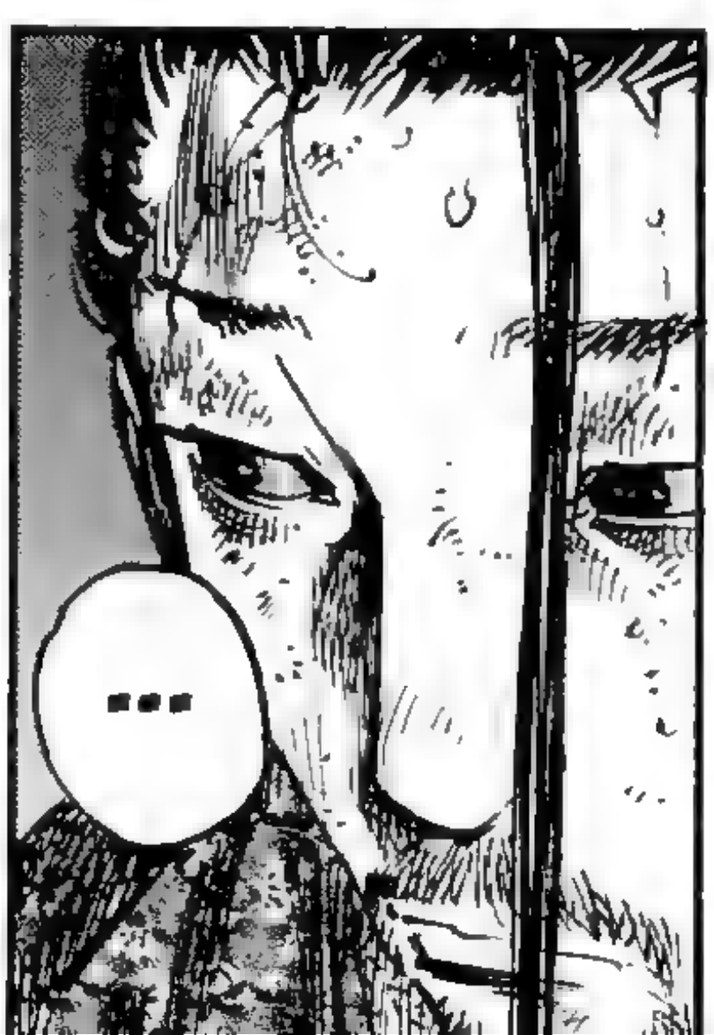
AND BESIDES ...

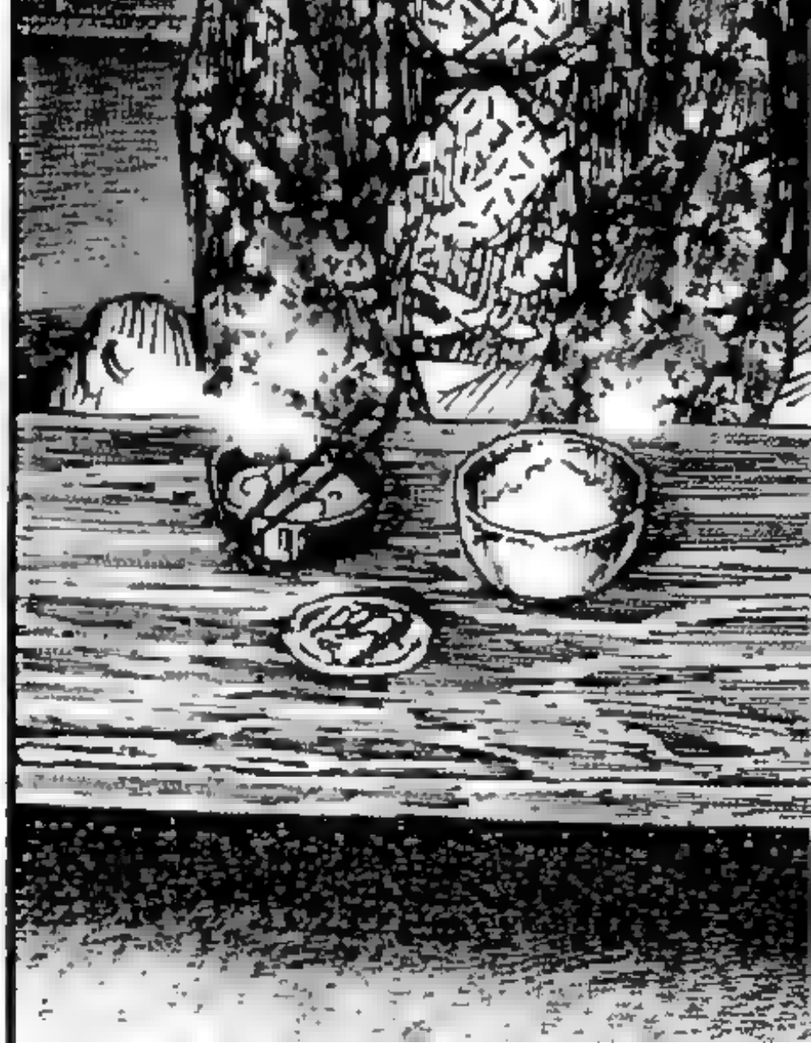
THE WAY SHE WAS LOOKING AT HIM, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING I CAN DO.











MNCH MNCH

THIS TIME YOU BETTER STAY WITH HIM, OTSŪ.

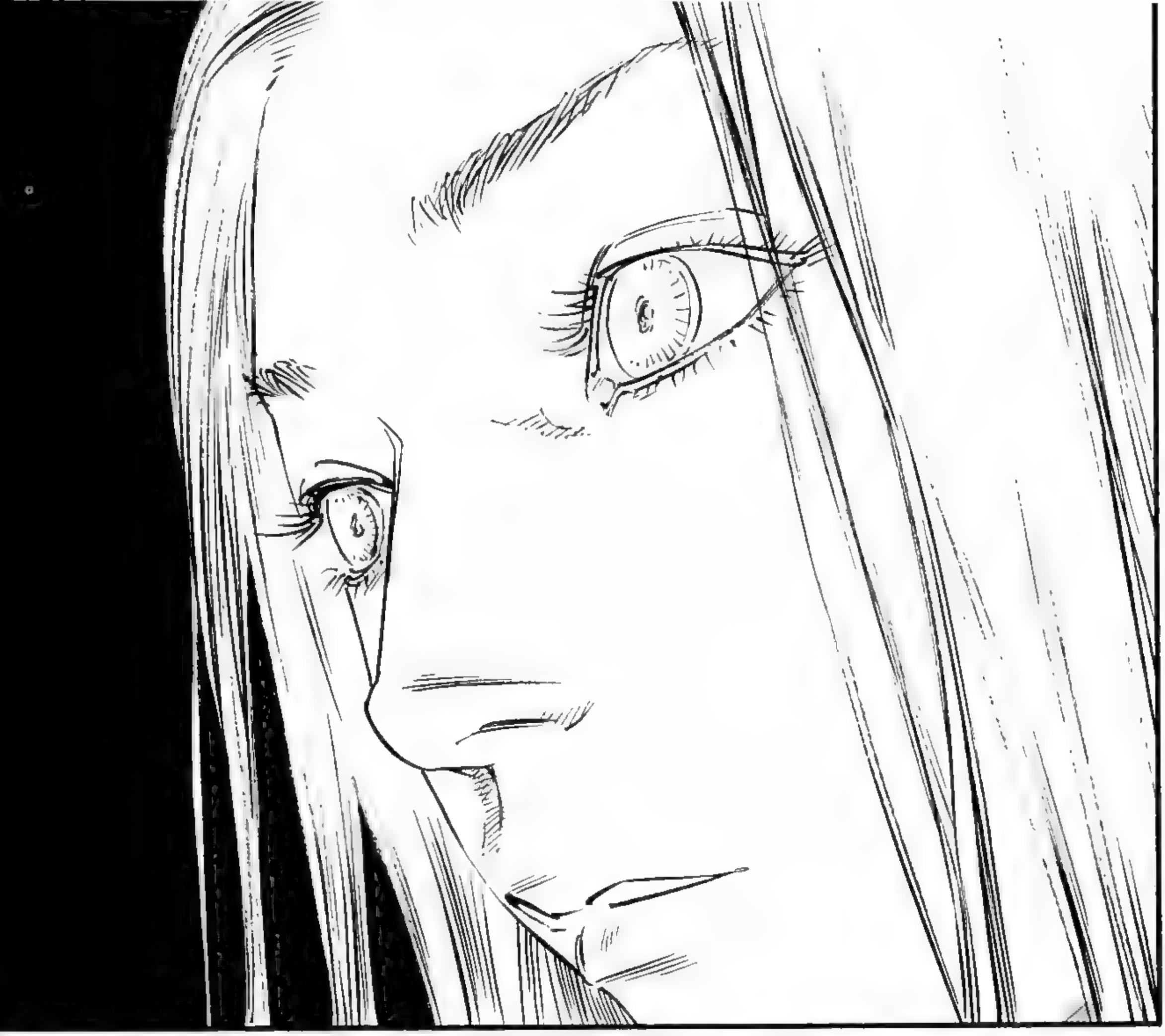
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH WOMEN.

YOU KNOW...

IF *YOU* DON'T MAKE THE EFFORT, NOTHING WILL EVER HAPPEN.

ZHUP

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOURSELF BACK ANYMORE.



ZHP

MORE, PLEASE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOURSELF BACK ANYMORE.

HA HA. DON'T WORRY, THERE'S PLENTY.

THANKS!

...

HUF

HUF

HUF

...WELL SAID!

WELL SAID!

GOOD JOB!

TMP

TMP

TMP

I DID GOOD.

ARGH!

I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANY OF THIS TEMPLE FOOD.

ROAR

IT BURNS!

UGAH!

SHŌCHŪ FOR DIS-INFECTING WOUNDS?!

FWIP

AT LEAST I MANAGED TO FIND SOME SAKE TO DRINK.

HEH HEH...

...

...

KRKKL

KRKKL

I'LL ADD SOME COAL.

HOW'S THAT?

YOU COLD?

...WE WOULD'VE HAD A DRINK TOGETHER EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

IF THINGS WERE DIFFERENT ...

HAH...

ZING

CHEERS...

HERE.

I DESTROYED EVERYTHING WITH MY OWN HANDS.

EVERYTHING IMPORTANT TO ME...

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!

CAN I HAVE THIS TOO?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JŌTARŌ ?

MATA-HACHI DIDN'T EAT HIS.

OTSU...

I OVERHEARD YOU TALKING WITH MATAHACHI.

BETTER NOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.

THANKS !

EAT UP!

WILL YOU STAY WITH MUSASHI, OTSŪ?

OH, PLEASE...

IT'S POINTLESS.

HE LIVES BY THE SWORD.

WELL THEN...

WHAT IF MUSASHI...

...WERE NEVER TO FIGHT AGAIN?

...?

WHAT IF HE IS UNABLE TO FIGHT ANYMORE?

OTSU...

MUSASHI...

...CAN NO LONGER LIVE BY THE SWORD.

URBAN STYLE!

都会風

DARN IT!

#247 | While You Were Sleeping

...!

HUF

HUF

HUF

THE WOUND IS DEEP.

WNCH

OKAY!

RIGHT!

MATA-HACHI! I NEED MORE SALT!

AND ALCOHOL!

SPLSH

SNIP

YOU GOT YOURSELF HURT REAL BAD THIS TIME, MUSASHI.

BUT...

THAT YOU EVEN SURVIVED A BATTLE AGAINST 70 MEN IS A MIRACLE.

FOR THAT YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.

YOU SUR-VIVED.

HUF

HUF

YOU MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP THE SWORD, BUT WORSE YET...

PERHAPS YOU'LL NEVER EVEN BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN.

!!!

HIC

BUT OF COURSE I WAS LYING.

HIC

THAT REALLY HURT.

BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME...

OTSU WOULD NEVER LET ME DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T EVEN DESERVE TO BE IN HER PRESENCE.

GULP

I MAY BE DRUNK, BUT I STILL KNOW...

...

AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN OTSŪ SINCE WE LEFT THE VILLAGE!

HAH

WHEN WE WENT OFF TO WAR, NEITHER OF US KNEW THE PLEASURES OF WOMEN.

AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I TOLD YOU SUCH A STUPID LIE...

...

SO THANKS...

BUT, TAKEZŌ ...

IT WOULD HAVE HURT MORE IF YOU HADN'T HIT ME.

HIC

I'M HUNGRY.

MAYBE I'LL ROAST SOMETHING OVER THIS FLAME.

HM...

GRWL

STRONG STUFF.

WHOA ...

WOBBLE

WAIT HERE, MUSASHI.

I'LL BE BACK.

HIC

WIZZZ

...

ZHOOP

IT'S GETTING COLD... HERE'S A BLANKET.

MUSASHI CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING...

I WISH I WOULD'VE ASKED YOU BACK THEN...

TAKEZŌ...

I WANT TO BE STRONG...

DOES YOUR PATH HAVE AN END?

AND IF IT DOES...

...WHAT LIES BEYOND IT?

HA HA...

...

WHAT AM I DOING?

...

SORRY...

FWP

...HOW IT'S GOING TO END.

I SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

?!

SHUF

THIS WON'T GO WELL WITH THAT DRINK...

HUH?

ONLY DRIED FRUITS.

HIC

...STILL NOT UP, EH, MUSASHI?

HIC

...

MAYBE I'LL STAY WARMING THEM UP.

KRAKKL

MMF

...

...YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME...

...IF YOU WERE TO WAKE UP...

...

THEN AGAIN...

...!!

GASP!

OTSU--!

GOT THAT, TAKEZŌ?

OTSŪ LOVES YOU.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS WHILE YOU'RE ASLEEP.

WHAT ?

!!

...SHE'S TOO USED TO NOT GETTING WHAT SHE WANTS.

HIC

BUT THE THING WITH HER IS...

PARENTS ...

A NICE FAMILY.

SHE NEVER HAD THAT.

THAT'S WHY SHE WAS FINE JUST WATCHING YOU FROM A DISTANCE.

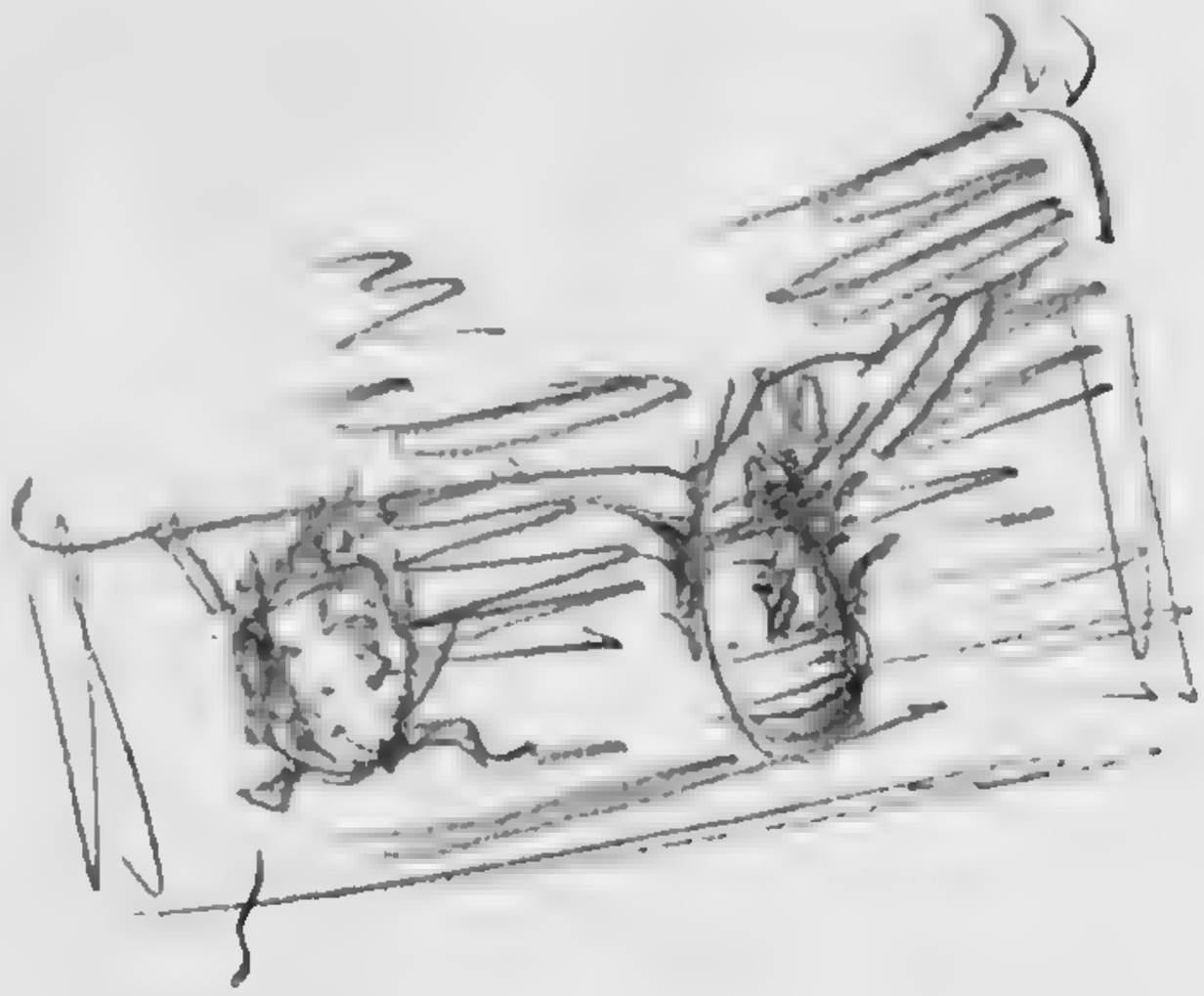
WE BOTH FOLLOWED YOU...

...BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS.

TAKE HER WITH YOU, TAKEZŌ...!

SCHNOR

ZZZ



14

zzz

YOUR FATHER SURE WAS SCARY.

STRONG ENOUGH TO BE CALLED INVINCIBLE.

AND SO PECULIAR AND HARSH IN HIS WAYS...

HE LIVED SUCH A DIFFERENT LIFE FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

NO ONE WENT NEAR HIM.

NO ONE WANTED TO.

BUT NOW...

YOU WERE HIS SON AND PROBABLY FELT THE SAME WAY.

YOU'RE BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM.

...LOOK AT YOU...

YOU'RE A MONSTER!

#248 | Heartbeat

A DREAM...

HUF

HUF

...

AT LEAST I HOPE IT WAS A DREAM.

...

...IF I HAD SAID YOU RESEMBLED YOUR FATHER?

WOULD THAT HAVE MADE YOU MAD...

I SUPPOSE ...

...MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT...

...

WHY DID I HAVE THAT DREAM...?

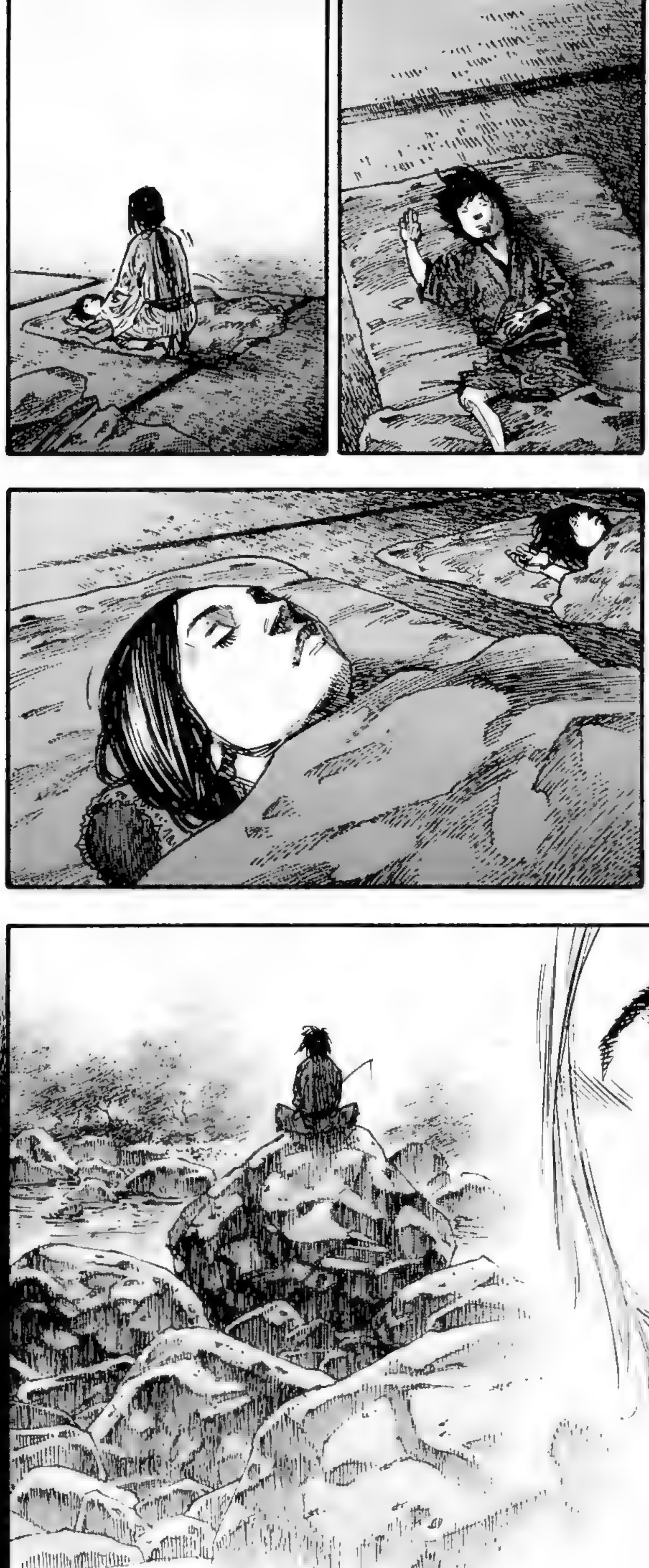
I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THOSE FEELINGS INTO WORDS.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I GUESS I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY...

...I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF YOU...

I FEARED YOU AND...

...YOU WERE SO DISTANT.



HEY!

LOOK OVER HERE.

HEY!

.....

.....

DID HE SEE ME?

DID YOU SMOOCH?

GO BACK TO SLEEP!

DID YOU KISS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT?

PAR-ENTS...

A WARM FAMILY ...

ZZZ...

IS THAT WHAT I WAS DOING?

SHE NEVER HAD THAT.

SHE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO WATCH YOU FROM A DISTANCE.

I'LL BE GONE IN THE MORN-ING.

YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF...

IT'S COLD...

WHOOSH

...

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THINGS A LITTLE SLOWER...

TAKEZŌ...

OTHERWISE YOU'LL DIE.

...

ARE YOU ALIVE?

...

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

THMP

THMP

THMP

THMP

THMP

THMP

I...

THMP

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CUT DOWN AN ADULT.

THMP

WHY AM I THE ONE WHO'S CRYING?

...

TA-TAKEZŌ ...

THMP

YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY.

THUMP

I...

...I'LL END UP A NOBODY IF I STAY HERE... I HAVE TO LEAVE HOME.

LET'S LEAVE THIS VILLAGE.

LE-LET'S FIGHT...IN THE WAR.

YOU WERE SO STRONG AND DISTANT...

SOUNDS GOOD.

LET'S GO.

THAT WAS EASY.

FWUM

!!

I FEARED YOU...

I HAVEN'T DESTROYED EVERY-THING I HAVE...

FICH

FICH

...HERE IN THESE HANDS OF MINE.

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING ...

BUT I STILL THOUGHT OF YOU AS A FRIEND.

...MY MOTHER...

...AND KOJIRŌ.

MUST HURRY...

...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

YANK

#249

Rumors of Musashi

WORD OF HIS FEAT SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LANDS WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS.

MIYAMOTO SINGLE-HANDEDLY KILLED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HIS OPPONENTS.

ON JANUARY 13 OF THE 10TH YEAR OF KEICHŌ, MIYAMOTO MUSASHI, A RŌNIN OF SAKUSHŪ, FOUGHT AGAINST THE ENTIRE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL, A TOTAL OF 70 MEN, AT THE SPREADING PINE NEAR ICHIJŌJI TEMPLE IN KYOTO...

CHIRP

FWEEE

THE YAGYU.

WHUD

WHAT?

HE TOOK ON 70 MEN?!

KLAK

WHUD

KLAK

KLAK

MUSASHI !!

I CAN REMEMBER IT AS IF IT WERE YESTER-DAY.

THAT MAN, HE MUST HAVE BECOME QUITE A FIGHTER SINCE WE LAST TRADED BLOWS WITH HIM A YEAR AGO.

FWAK

FWAK

FWAK

SUCH A HEATED BATTLE IT WAS...

I'D LIKE TO FIGHT HIM AGAIN.

SMIRK

PERHAPS NEXT TIME YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN JUST AN EYE.

THUMP

WE'D PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE, OUR HEARTS RIGHT THERE IN THE OPEN...

A FIGHT TO THE DEATH, WHOSE LIFE WOULD BE TAKEN?

THUMP

古屋尾張

OWARI PROVINCE

ARE YOU WILLING, MURATA?

OF COURSE.

HE KILLED 70 MEN?!

UNBELIEV-ABLE!

...

I'M JUST THINKING.

HM...

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

HOW EXACTLY WOULD ONE GO ABOUT FIGHTING 70 MEN?

AND HAVE YOU COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS, YOUNG MASTER?

...

YES...

THAT ONE MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT IT.

FICH

I'M SURE THE TEMPLES IN KYOTO MUST BE QUITE BUSY...

NARA

...WHAT WITH ALL THE FUNERAL SERVICES TO PERFORM.

IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

RUMMBL

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

YES...

EVEN IF HE DID WIN...

IN A BATTLE OF SUCH PROPORTIONS ...

SURELY HE DIDN'T COME OUT OF IT UNINJURED...

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI!

MUSASHI!

HM?

A MON-STER!

A DEMON!

WHAT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MAN.

YOU DON'T SEE THAT KIND OF COURAGE THESE DAYS.

TAK

NON-SENSE!

KOF KOF

KOF

HEY, GRANNY, ALL 70 OF THOSE MEN WERE TRAINED DISCIPLES OF THE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL.

HE MAY BE STRONG, BUT HE'S HEARTLESS.

ONLY SOMEONE HEARTLESS COULD KILL OFF 70 MEN WITHOUT FLINCHING! HE'S INHUMAN I SAY!

THAT'S THE WORK OF A HEARTLESS DEMON, I SAY!

DON'T YOU ALL AGREE?!

IT WAS A SWORD-FIGHT.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE HE MURDERED INNOCENT PEOPLE.

WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE!

KOF KOF HAAK

SIT DOWN AND REST.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

HE'S A MONSTER, I SAY!

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL THEM ALL.

YOU DO HAVE A POINT.

HE WAS QUITE MERCILESS.

WELL, LET'S SEE NOW. IT ALL STARTED BACK WHEN...

AND THEN HE HAD THE NERVE TO...

KOF KOF

DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST MUSASHI?

AH, YES. LET ME TELL YOU...

I APPRECI-ATE YOUR CONCERN.

MUSASHI, EH?!

MUSASHI...

HE KILLED 70 OF THE YOSHIOKA?

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI?

YES, SIR.

AND YOU'RE TELLING ME...

THAT THIS MIGHTY WARRIOR ISN'T SERVING ANYONE?

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.

HMM...

FSSHHH

SLURP

THERE'S MORE.
SOUP.
HYUU...
THAT WAS GOOD.
IT'S COLD. COULD YOU CLOSE THAT DOOR, TARO-CHIN?

HMPH.

FP

ZHUP

...

...

CHOMP

THEN IT'LL BE FAREWELL TO ME AND OTSU.

THE MASTER WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS HE'S RECOVERED.

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, OTSU.

OOPS.

KLAK

OH...

WHUD

HM?

WHUD

!

FISH

FISH

HUF

WHAT THE ...?!

HUF

HUF

HUF

#250 | An End to Fighting

TMP

...

...?

HUF

HUF

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUH?

HUF

MY LEG...

HUF

CAN'T YOU...

CAN'T YOU STAND ...?!

JŌTARŌ ...

WHAT'S WRONG ...??

MASTER!

HUF

HUF

UNGH ...

HUF

YOU MUSTN'T MOVE AROUND LIKE THIS!

YOU'LL OPEN UP YOUR WOUNDS!

HUF

HUF

HUF

T-TAKUAN SEWED ME UP?

HE'S ONE OF THE BEST IN KYOTO.

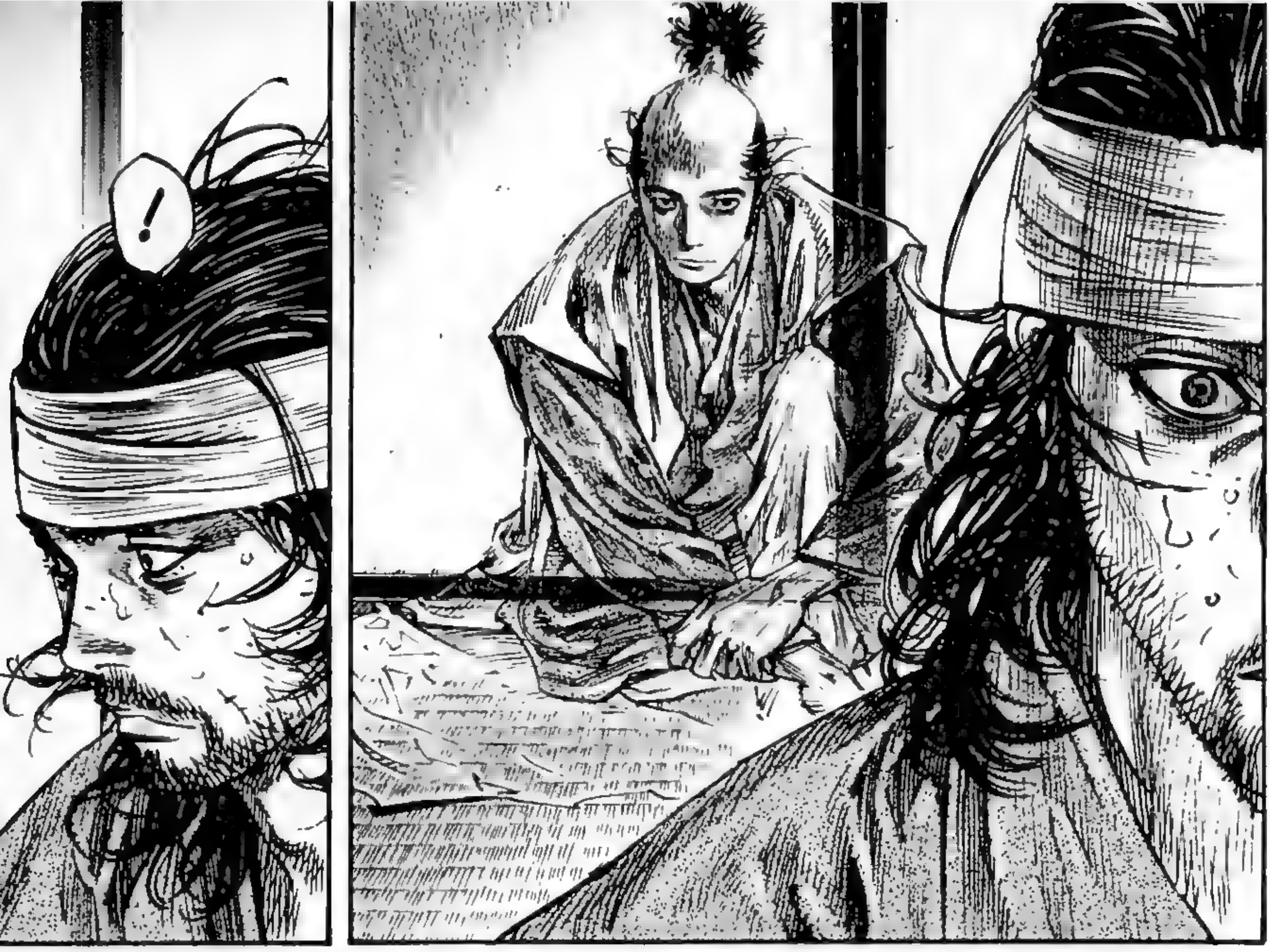
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?

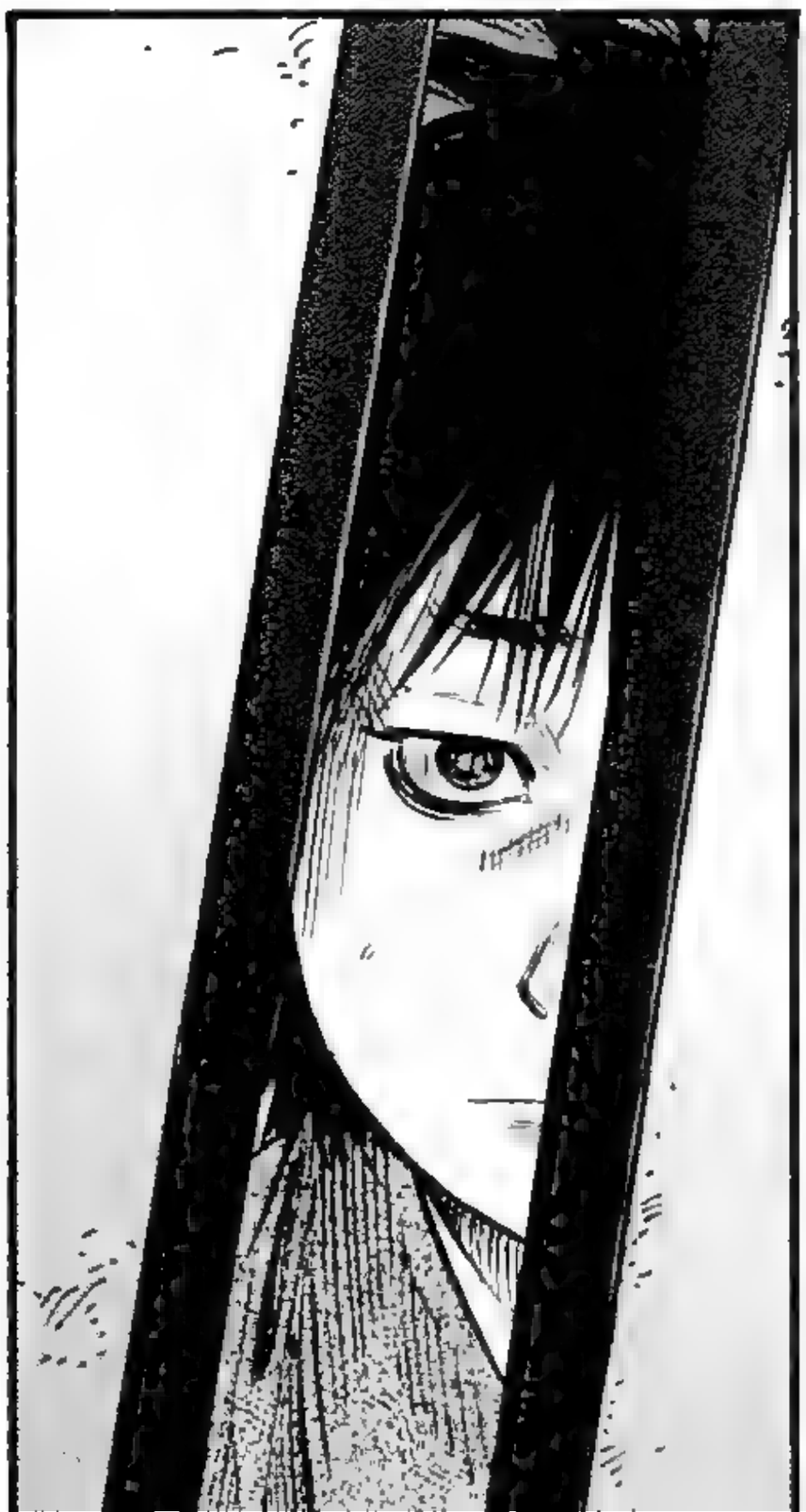
I DID WHAT I COULD...

...THEN I HAD A DOCTOR LOOK AT IT.

...

HE SAID THERE'LL NO LONGER BE ANY BATTLES FOR YOU.





ARE THE WOUNDS THAT BAD?

THE MASTER CAN STILL USE A SWORD...

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...

.....

HE MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO WALK NORMALLY AGAIN.

HE'S ONE WITH THE SWORD.

THE MASTER WAS BORN TO FIGHT.

OTSŪ'S A WOMAN, SO SHE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND...

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT SOMEONE SAID...

MASTER...

FSH

HE WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF DYING IN BATTLE!

HOW COULD HE NOT FIGHT ANYMORE?

I MEAN...

BETTER OFF DYING...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, TARO-CHIN?

T-P

TO PEE!

FWSH

FWSH

FWSH

FWSH

TUNK
TUNK
TUNK

FIK

FWIK

HYUU

THESE DAYS, THE QUICKEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A REPUTATION AS A FIGHTER WOULD BE...

...TO KILL YOU.

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...

FSSSHH

HUF

FSSHH

HUF

SLASH

...

HUF

HUF

HUF

FWIK

FWIK

HOW MUCH LONGER IS HE PLANNING ON STAYING?

YOU MEAN MUSASHI?

YES?

TAKUAN.

I SEE...

I WANT HIM OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AFTER ALL, HE SLAUGHTERED DOZENS OF MEN.

...WE MUST SHELTER NOT ONLY THE GOOD...

AS FOLLOWERS OF BUDDHA...

...BUT WRONGDOERS AS WELL. IS IT NOT FOR *THEIR* SAKE THAT WE EXIST?

.....

!

SLISH

TNK

COME NOW.

IMPATIENCE WON'T HELP YOU WALK ANY FASTER.

TAKEZŌ!

HMPH!

LOTS AND LOTS OF IT.

I MADE POTATO PORRIDGE.

GLUPP

GLUPP

YOU'RE REALLY COOKING UP A STORM.

BETTER WATCH OUT...

HM...

WHAT?!

SWP

SWP

NOT HUNGRY.

HM HMMM ♪

SHE'S HAPPY SHE CAN BE WITH MASTER NOW THAT HE CAN'T FIGHT.

NOT NOW!

YOU HAVE TO EAT.

BUT...

SHOCK

MAYBE LATER...

NO THANKS...

HERE.

TK

NOW THEN.

HOW'S THE PAIN?

HM... THANKS.

MUSASHI.

IT WAS DELICIOUS.

A LITTLE SALTY PERHAPS...

HOW ABOUT SOME FOOD?

REST HERE FOR A WHILE.

THE YOSHIOKA PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.

SLASHED FROM THE BACK...

OTSŪ WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.

SHUF

SHUF

URK

WHAT ?

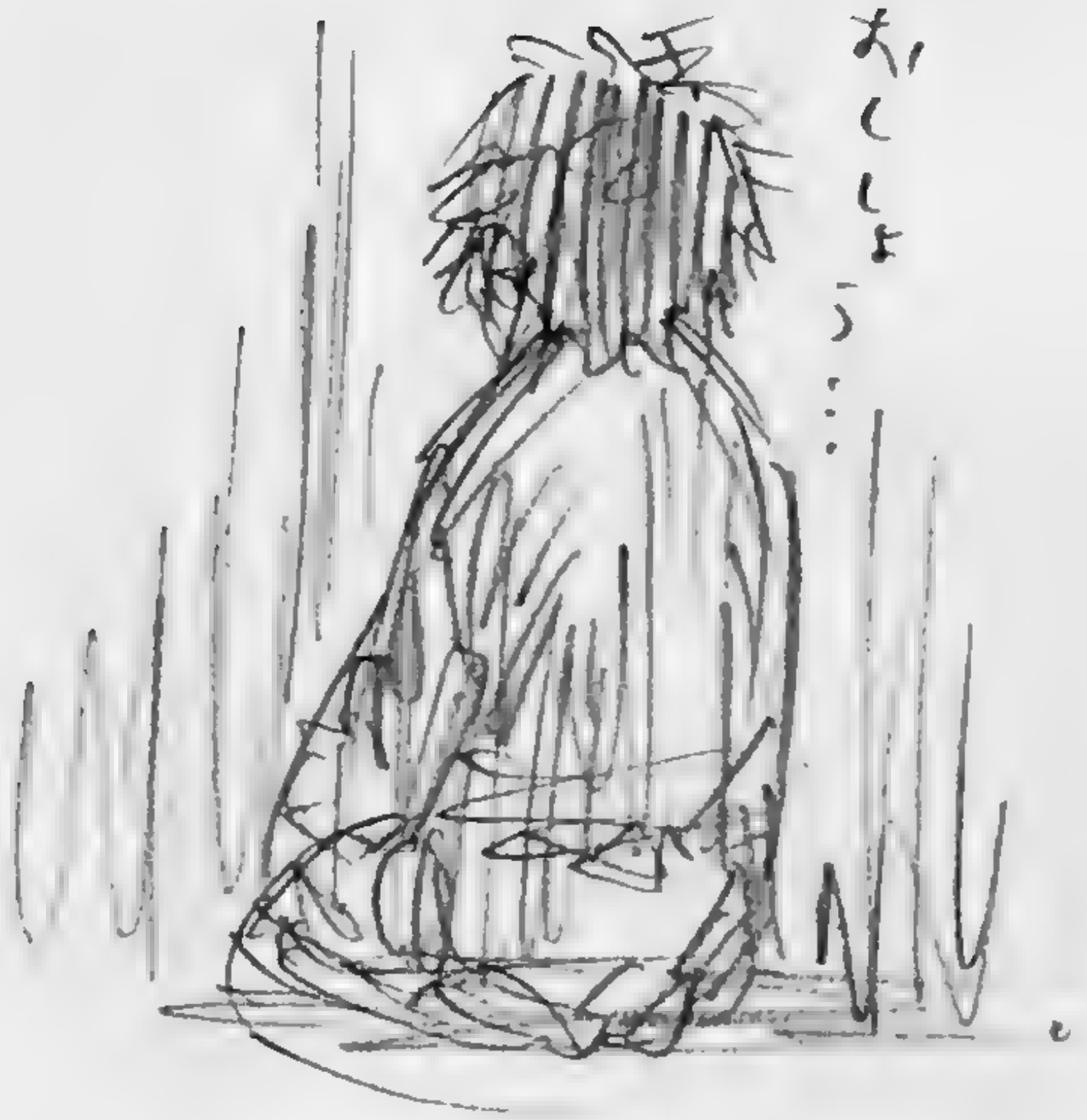
SAY, MUSASHI ...

HEY...

IT APPEARS AS IF THE HEAVENS...

...HAVE DEEMED THAT YOU SHALL NOT FIGHT ANYMORE.

MASTER...



MUSASHI...

WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE...

YOU MUST REST.

STAY OFF THAT LEG.

...IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN.

バガボンド
VAGABOND
#251 | Prayer
井上雄彦
"INOUE TAKEHIKO ON THE WEB" http://www.itplanning.co.jp/

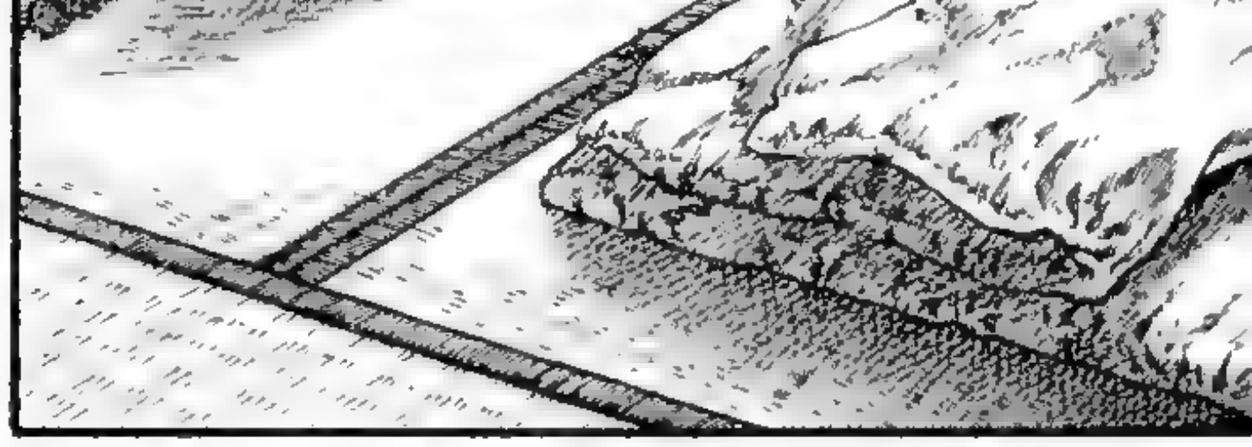
...HAVE DEEMED THAT YOU SHALL FIGHT NO LONGER.

PERHAPS THE HEAVENS...

#251 | Prayer

...

VERY SKILLFUL.



...AFTER KILLING 70 MEN?

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED ANYTHING...

OR PERHAPS...

...IT'S MADE YOU FEAR HOW DEEP THE DARKNESS IS...

YOU SURVIVED.

WAS YOUR OPPONENT BIG?

WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WAS HE?

FATHER...

FATHER...

PLISH

PLISH

FATHER...

THE HANDS ARE IN PRAYER.

FOR ALL OF THEM.

GOD OR BUDDHA...

TELL ME...

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

...WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES...

WHAT DO YOU SEE...

...AND PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER?

WHO OR WHAT DO YOU PRAY TO?

PLIP

PLIP ...

THE PATH I'VE TAKEN.

?

DOES EVERYTHING STILL REVOLVE AROUND YOU?

MUSA-SHI...

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY IT.

NO...

HERE.

PLEASE

?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THAT'S COLD!

THE STATE YOU'RE IN...

AREN'T YOU AT THE END OF THAT PATH?!

COME ON!

?!

BLOODIED HANDS.

CONCERNED ONLY ABOUT YOUR "SELF"!

IT'S GOOD. I THINK.

I REHEATED THE PORRIDGE. HERE, HAVE SOME.

HM?

LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED!

DON'T YOU SEE?!

YOUR BODY KNOWS YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THAT ANYMORE!

JUST LOOK!

!

SO I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE UP THE SWORD?

HUF

THE SWORD...

I'VE RISKED MY LIFE.

HUF

DESPERATELY GIVEN EVERYTHING I HAVE TO COME THIS FAR...

HUF

P-
POR-
RIDGE
...

THE HEAVENS--

YES, SIR. KONPUKUJI TEMPLE. THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

FICH

SO THIS IS WHERE MUSASHI IS.

SO THE HEAVENS WILL ROB ME OF THE SWORD?

THAT CAN'T BE!

BAKA

THE AUTHORI-TIES ARE HERE...

HOOP

TAKUAN!

THUD

GASP !

THUD

THUD

!

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI!

...AND FOR MURDERING 70 MEN FROM THE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSONAL FIGHT...

KAWW

KAWW

KAWW

KAWW

THE SMELL OF BLOOD MUST STILL REMAIN.

WHO KNOWS WHAT BODY PARTS ARE STILL LYING AROUND HERE.

WHAT A SIGHT IT WAS.

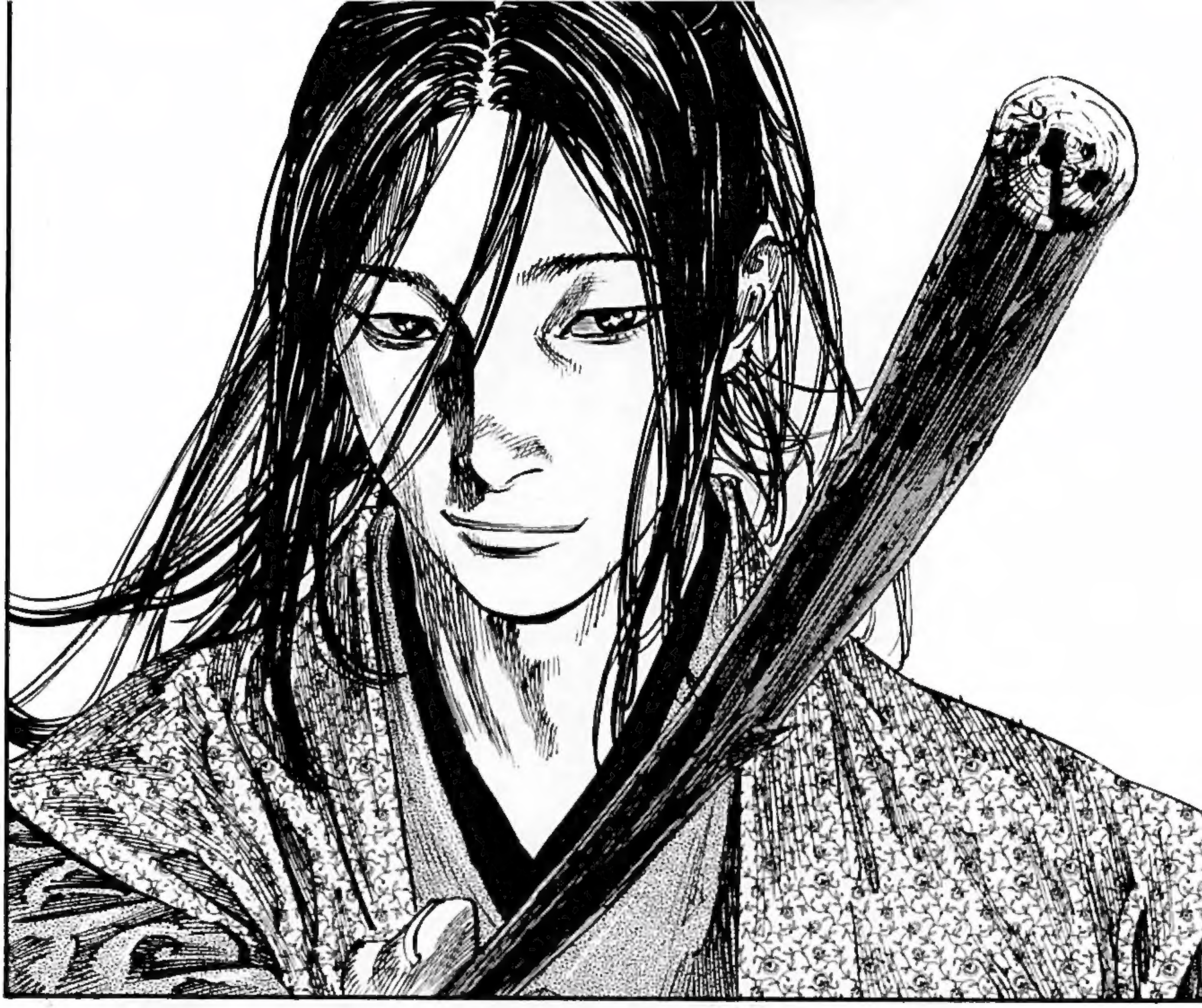
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

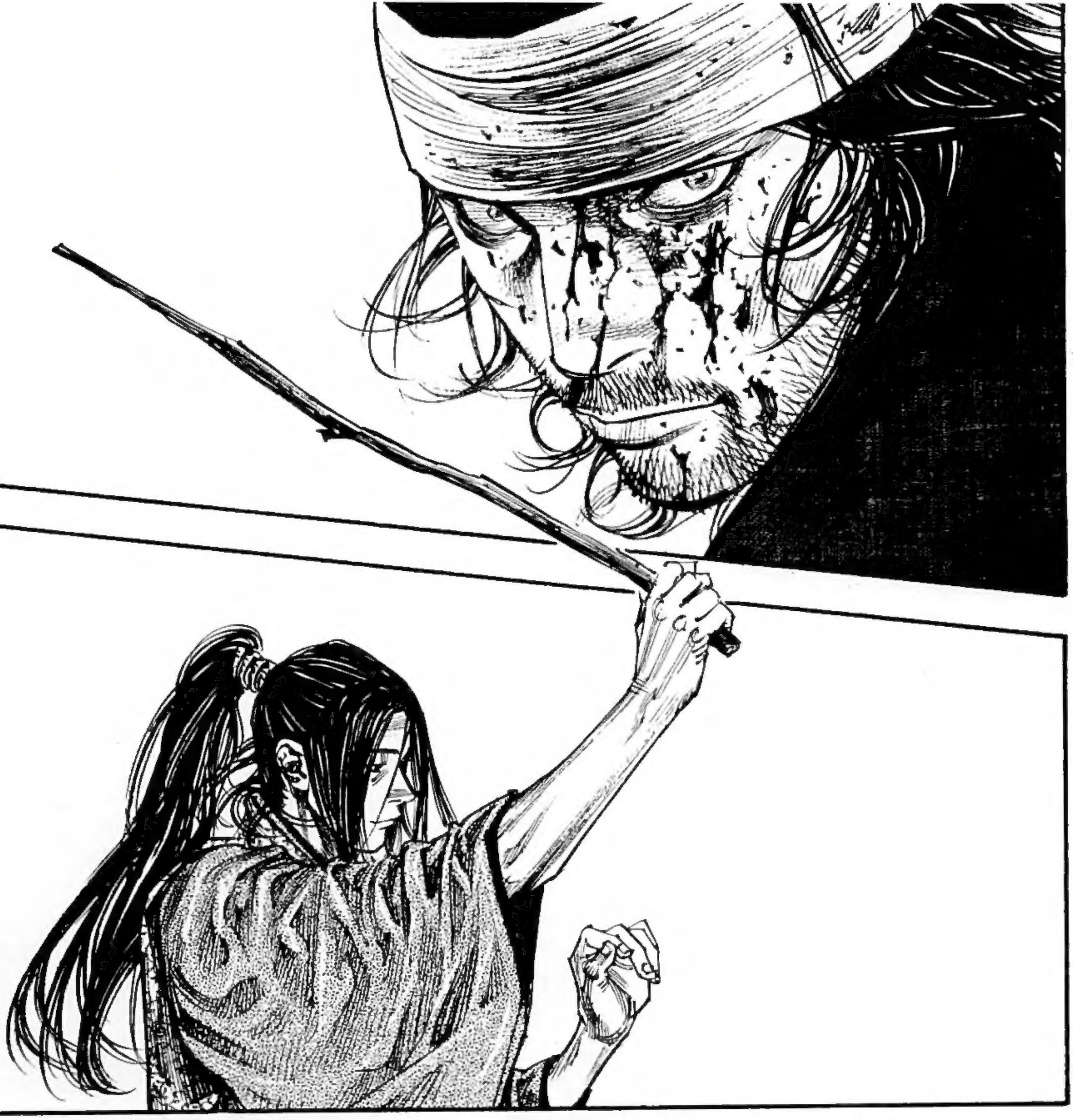
THE FLOCK OF CROWS FEASTING ON 70 CORPSES.

UGH!

FICH

...





Vagabond

End of volume 28